

# **The Department of Housing and Community Development**

## **Report to the California Building Standards Commission 9-05**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has developed a workplan timeline that provides for the development of proposed California codes to meet the May, 2006, submittal date established by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC). Our workplan is a two-step process that permits code development utilizing the 2003 International Codes in the first step, followed by integration of the initial code development into the 2006 International Codes when they become available. Additional activity related to code development also will occur, as described below.

HCD is responsible for the development of building standards relating to the health, life safety, and general welfare for occupants of residential occupancies and their appurtenant structures. This authority is very broad and covers almost every aspect of the repair, alteration, and construction in residential structures. Additionally, HCD is responsible for the development of accessibility standards for privately-funded covered multifamily housing and other housing options as prescribed by statute.

HCD has participated fully and will continue to participate in the three workgroups established by the CBSC that are designed to coordinate efforts of the participating state agencies. The workgroups currently established are the General Design/Accessibility, Structural Safety, and Fire Safety workgroups. Additionally, HCD has assigned staff to participate in the work development plans established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Division of State Architect.

HCD is committed to coordinating its efforts with stakeholders as well. Preparations are underway to establish at least one focus group of stakeholders and interested parties that will provide valuable input during the development of these codes. Obtaining input from stakeholders and interested parties in the early stages of code development will help minimize stakeholder concerns that can occur during the adoption phase of the rulemaking cycle.

During the development of the California Building Standards Code, based for the first time on model codes derived from the International Codes, HCD is taking the opportunity to perform a special review of current state amendments for application to residential occupancies. HCD plans a complete review of current amendments in all the codes during the development phase and intends to propose amendments in the new codes that are statutorily required; are necessary for the health, life safety, and the general welfare of the public; or meet the goals of HCD. We believe this effort will help eliminate unnecessary amendments.

Additionally, based on International Code Council's (ICC) commitment to provide a web-based code development program, HCD has allotted time within its workplan to perform tasks that are feasible to assist the CBSC in shortening preparation time of the monograph for public review and publication of the final document.

While the workplan timeline is aggressive, HCD is committed to meeting the May, 2006, submittal date. Target dates have been placed within our workplan timeline to facilitate this commitment and provide "milestones" of HCD's progress.